

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds

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25X1 EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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25X1 DATE OF CONTENT

25X1 DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 December 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At about 10:15 a.m. on 15 October 1953, 11 new trucks were detrained at the Templin railroad station. A detail, which had arrived from the direction of Eberswalde on truck [redacted] picked up the vehicles. At about 10 p.m. on 26 October, an undetermined number of vehicles [redacted] and about 300 to 400 troops carrying infantry weapons and baggage were entrained at the Templin railroad station. At about 9 p.m. on 18 October, 16 trucks were seen en route toward Kannenburg, coming from the direction of Eberswalde. [redacted]

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[redacted] a new unit arrived at the camp.

[redacted]

2. On 29 October, a shipment, including 17 boxcars occupied by about 500 troops wearing winter uniforms and without arms arrived at Templin from the direction of Eberswalde and was unloaded. On 31 October, about 600 troops with infantry weapons and 2 trucks were entrained in Zehdenick and Vogelsang. On 4 November, about 400 ammunition boxes were loaded at the Templin railroad station. Shipments passing through the Templin railroad station included 3 trucks and 4 canvas-covered rocket launchers, coming from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeding toward Vogelsang at 2 p.m. on 3 November and 22 trucks and 30 boxcars occupied by troops, coming from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeding toward Vogelsang at 6:30 p.m. on 4 November. Between 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on 4 November, 3 T-34/85 tanks, 3 SP guns, 5 trucks and about 200 troops were entrained at the Templin railroad station. [redacted]

3. At about 4:40 p.m. on 26 October, 26 boxcars occupied by troops passed through the Templin railroad station, coming from the direction of Berlin and proceeding toward Fuerstenberg. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on 5 November, JS-1 tanks [redacted] 5 T-34/85 tanks, [redacted] 2 ambulances [redacted]

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[redacted], 1 tank truck, van-like truck [redacted] truck [redacted] with a field kitchen, trucks [redacted] carrying timber, about 60 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and about 200 boxes were entrained at the Templin railroad station, and left toward Berlin.¹ Between 6 and 8 November, no troop trains were loaded and unloaded at, or passed through, the Templin railroad station.

4. Camp Kannenburg was occupied only by a guard detail of about 9 soldiers equipped with 2 motorcycles and 1 dog after 26 October. Prior to 28 October, all was quiet at the Kannenburg firing range. Individual trucks engaged in driving practice. [redacted]

On 27 October, a Soviet major and a senior lieutenant stated at the Altplacht forestry that, between 29 October and 3 November, a tank unit was to conduct an exercise and that, therefore, wood workers were prohibited to enter the training area. On 29 October, 32 T-34/85 tanks, [redacted] were seen en route to the fire observation tower in Jagen (forest section) [redacted] coming from the direction of Hammelspring. The tanks subsequently engaged in a tank firing practice, during which the area was heavily guarded. On 30 and 31 October, several AA machine guns which had come from the direction of Gross-Beutel See fired at sleeve targets towed by 2 biplanes. On 2 November, T-34/85 tank [redacted] towing a dummy tank was seen in Jagen No 131. The dummy tank was connected with the tank by an iron rod, about 4 meters long. About 100 infantry soldiers, equipped with live magnetic antitank hollow charges, attacked the dummy tank, with the charges always attached to the front armor plates. On 2 November, no activity was observed at the training area; the sentries had been withdrawn. On 3 November, empty trucks [redacted] were seen in Hammelspring. On the same day, truck [redacted] loaded with boxes and iron frames and driven by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, proceeded toward Oranienburg, coming from the Kannenburg firing range.²

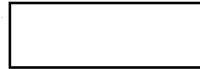
5. [redacted] the new barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang were located in Jagen Nos 253 through 256. Seven quartering buildings for EM and 6 motor vehicle and tank sheds had been occupied prior to early November. All buildings were permanent structures. The scheduled construction of a tank road had not yet started as the Soviet construction staff and the Baugemeinschaft (construction union) Thuringia did not come to an agreement regarding the costs. Beginning in late October, numerous troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets were observed in the quartering area, in addition to the troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Five trucks, [redacted] towing 5 x 57-mm AT guns, were at the garages and 9 trucks [redacted] mounting AA machine guns were seen nearby, as well as 8 sidecar motorcycles. [redacted]

1. Comment. Although the dates mentioned [redacted] differ by about 24 hours, the two shipments may be identical. The shipment mentioned in paragraph 3 probably involved tanks of the 82d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div, which transferred to Berlin.

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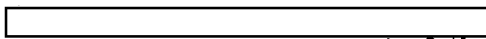
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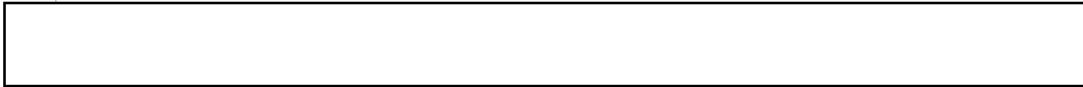


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2.  Comment.  the tank firing practice probably involved tanks of the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div, which is believed to be permanently stationed in Camp Vogelsang. The AA machine guns can be also carried with this regiment.

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4.  Comment. The new barracks installations in Jagen Nos 253 through 256 in the area of Camp Vogelsang have been occupied since mid-October by units of the 25th Tank Div, definitely including the 111th Tank Regt, to which the AT guns and the AA machine guns are also believed to belong.

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